



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Barbara Bane, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Donna Rosenthal and (by phone) Vicki Siegel.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 10:02.

The agenda was approved with modifications requested by board members.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report: Jerry deferred his comments until later in the meeting.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Charissa will not be available for the meetings in April and May but will provide a narrative that can be shared at the meeting.
- She reminded us that an anonymous donor contributed \$26K over the past 3 years saying it is "for the library", and she felt this should be used for the new furniture. Jerry stated that the funds were not restricted and were put into general funds. (More discussion about furniture later.)
- The GBLA @ the Library was a one-time informational session rather than a monthly meeting.
- In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club Reading Challenge has begun.
- A recruitment is needed for a Departmental Aide at the branch.
- A grant worth \$500K was received for Lunch at the Library throughout Kern County. Some things the grant will cover will be take-home items, movie licenses, and a paid helper. Locally, the lunches will be provided from June 1 through July 7, with hot lunches served Mondays through Thursdays, and cold lunches served on Fridays. The lunches may be extended in Ridgecrest further into July with cold lunches only.
- She would like the Summer Reading Challenge 2023, "Find Your Voice" to feature local performers such as singers, musicians, artists, writers, actors, etc. She is also planning to send out a donor letter to local businesses to promote partnership with the community by requesting prizes and/or financial support. She would like to be able to offer prizes for bonus finishers, those who finish a second list of books during the SRC. She is scheduling sessions with the Ridge Writers, and a local CB radio club, and there will be more.
- Kern County has implemented a new tagline: Grounded & Boundless, for use in their publicity. The Kern County Library adapted that to Grounded in Literacy for their publicity. We will be seeing that on their posts, website, brochures, and flyers.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- 10 renewals
- She provided a breakdown of dues paid by members joining or renewing in 2022. It showed that 19% paid \$50 or more.
- Jerry stressed that there was no vote on raising dues at the last meeting because it was clear only a few people were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Nani reported

- Nani distributed the February Monthly Financial Report, the Financial Status as of February 28, 2023, and the Proposed Budget for 2023. She walked us through the monthly report.

Proposed Budget 2023:

- After much deliberation, one amendment was made to the budget: \$5K was added to the Summer Reading Challenge budget. (Although Charissa can now use Trust Account funds to order from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com), the orders go to HQ and then come to her in the shipment, which causes delays and possible losses.)
- Peggy moved the budget be approved as amended. Barbara L. seconded, and the motion passed.
- Furniture was discussed again as a budget item. It was decided that the \$8K budgeted should be spent this year to replace the items it will cover. When further funds are available within the bounds of fiscal responsibility, the balance of the needed items will be purchased. Jerry asked Charissa to prepare a presentation of the items needed with costs and plans for purchase.

Old Business:

- Book Storage Status: Jil reminded us that she works there every Wednesday from 1 to 3pm. Three of the people who have been helping her had to quit due to illness. Jil donated 3 or 4 boxes of records to the library for crafts related to the SRC "Find Your Voice" theme that Charissa is sharing with the other branches. Since Moe's music has closed, the rest of the records will be put out at the next couple of sales.
- Teacher/Home School - Barbara B. shared a list of books requested by several homeschool families. Rather than general subject areas, they listed specific books that are rather recent. It was decided that sorters would keep an eye out for books to box up for the home schoolers and allow them first dibs at the next sale. They can choose from this selection for free.
- Online Sales - Jil has set up a bank account to work with Amazon.com. She was surprised to find that she could not list books that Amazon does not already have in its database. Those books may have to be sold through Abe Books or another source.
- Consignment Sales - Pat (aka Trish) Boyd has been talking with Steve at S&M.
- The Farmer's Market - Is open from 9 to 12 now and will change to 8 to 10:30 in the summer. It costs \$20 per week for a simple set-up every other week, plus a business license at \$29 per year. This was discussed and considered not worth the work.
- A contract for the auction of one of our books by the manager of the Pasadena Antique Book Fair has been signed. This book was valued at \$1,000 but could sell for more or less.
- Jil is also checking into a space that was suggested by a realtor. It is only 1,800 sq. ft. and she has not seen the inside it yet. She will keep us posted.
- Little Free Libraries - Jerry is making repairs to the LFL in Inyokern which was pretty beat up. He is talking to Terri Middlemiss about a place to put it and a steward. He plans to make some repairs to the Upjohn Park LFL and hopes to get it back in the ground within a week or so.
- CalNonProfits - Barbara L. now has copies of our current insurance documents and can contact them for an insurance quote over the phone.
- Combined Federal Campaign - Barbara B. reported this is still a work in progress.

New Business

- 501(c)3 Filing Status - Now that FRBL is a separate entity from Kern County Friends of the Library, we have filing requirements that are rigorous and costly. We have a CPA working on an annual filing and an attorney making a filing. The CPA cost \$500 plus the \$50 filing fee.
- Update to Standing Rules - Nani and Barbara L. looked over the documents but need more guidance from Jerry on just what he wants done. The three plan to meet outside a board meeting.
- Alternate Time for Board Meetings - At the request of Julie Gervais, we discussed the possibility of changing the meeting time. After discussion of pros and cons, Barbara B. moved that board meetings begin at 1:00pm on the third Wednesday of the month from now on.

The motion was seconded by Jil and passed. (Judy Fair-Spalding and Becky Parker have been notified.)

- April Book Sale - A Bag Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, April 15th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. One day and one weekend. Members pay \$5 per bag, nonmembers pay \$10.
- A Spring Book Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, May 6th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. This is also a one day sale. Books will be sorted and priced as usual.
- Community Yard Sale - We discussed participating in the sale this year with our personal goods for sale as well as books. Some of us expect to have a lot of sellable items. The sale is June 3rd from 7:00am to 1:00pm with set-up the night before. Barbara L. moved that FRBL participate in the Community Yard Sale with used goods and books if there is room. Peggy seconded the motion and it was passed. Jil will get details and reserve a space for us, near the library's space if possible. She suggested that ALL items be priced when dropped off.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, April 19th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary